



PATENT
Attorney Docket No. 5384/55373

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Wojdyla et al.)
Serial No.: 10/007,690) Group Art Unit: 2152
Filed: December 4, 2001) Examiner:
For: Method and System)
for Mail Security)
and Traceability)

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OCT 17 2002

Technology Center 2100

AFFIDAVIT OF RICHARD WOJDYLA

I, Richard Wojdyla, on oath depose and say:

1. This Affidavit is made on my own personal knowledge and if called and sworn as a witness, I would competently testify as to each of the facts stated herein.
2. I am over 21 years of age, I am a citizen of the United States and of the State of Illinois.
3. I have worked for Bell & Howell since 1974.
4. Presently, I am the Director of Business Development for Mail Delivery Solutions at Bell & Howell.
5. As Director of Business Development for Mail Delivery Solutions, my responsibilities include marketing and finance for United States Postal Systems (USPS) and Sorting Products.
6. For the last 6-7 years, I have regularly met with USPS management officials to discuss current issues facing mail acceptance and handling.
7. Recently, USPS management has expressed to me a grave concern for the security of mail acceptance from

biological/security threats to the U.S. mail system that compromises the health and safety of all Americans.

8. Because of the recent anthrax attacks on members of Congress and American citizens in general, the USPS set-up a special task force to determine how to make mail secure and how to trace where certain items entered the mail system in order to minimize potentially damaging mail from entering the system and to help track down those who introduce damaging mail into the system, and to help identify weak spots.

9. Many of the letters containing anthrax had common characteristics. When the offending mail was identified, a search would have been done to identify other mail pieces having the same characteristic. Mail then identified as being a threat would be traced to where it entered the mail system by the "Method and System for Mail Security and Traceability" (Serial No. 10/007,690) so that identification of the source of the threat could begin.

10. It would be determined by the "Method and System for Mail Security and Traceability" if any of these pieces of mail are still in the system and where they are presently located. If they are no longer in the system, it can be determined where the mail was delivered so that warnings could be issued, the threat and spread of damage could minimized, and immediate treatment of affected individuals could be initiated. In addition, the present and past locations of any mail pieces containing the characteristics of concern could be determined so that testing of those area for spread of contamination could be accomplished and

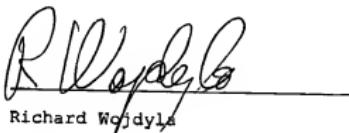
further spread of contamination limited.

11. Quickly identifying the path of the suspicious mail with the "Method and System for Mail Security and Traceability" is a key to not only identifying the culprit, but also saving time, money, and most importantly, lives. Not only does the Government, American citizens and U.S. businesses rely on the reputation and sanctity of the U.S. mail system, but also the international community relies on it.

12. The inventions would also be used in conjunction with commercial mailrooms to further trace the path of the suspicious mail. It could also be used to identify vulnerable areas in the system where offending mail could infiltrate the system.

FURTHER AFFIANT SAYETH NOT.

Dated: 10/02/02


Richard Wojdyla

STATE OF ILLINOIS)

)

COUNTY OF COOK)

Subscribed and sworn to by Richard Wojdyla before me on
October 2nd, 2002




Notary Public